
By: **Delegates Cluster, Boteler, Boutin, DeBoy, Frank, Kach, McComas,
McConkey, Montgomery, Smigiel, Stocksdale, and Weir**
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ferret Protection Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain commercial entities from transporting in or
4 out of the State, or offering for sale, a ferret that is under a certain age or
5 lacking adult canine dentition; requiring certain commercial entities to sexually
6 alter all ferrets, prior to their sale, at no less than a certain age and provide
7 medical certification dating the procedure; prohibiting the transport of sexually
8 altered ferrets from their commercial breeding facility within a certain number
9 of days after their medical procedure; providing that a violation of this Act is a
10 misdemeanor; providing for a certain penalty; and generally relating to the
11 handling of ferrets.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Criminal Law
14 Section 10-623
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2002 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Criminal Law**

20 10-623.

21 (A) A COMMERCIAL ENTITY THAT PRODUCES OR AIDS IN THE WHOLESALE OR
22 RETAIL DISTRIBUTION OF FERRETS:

23 (1) MAY NOT TRANSPORT IN OR OUT OF THE STATE, OR OFFER FOR
24 SALE, A FERRET THAT:

25 (I) IS UNDER 12 WEEKS OF AGE; OR

26 (II) LACKS FULL ADULT CANINE DENTITION;

1 (2) SHALL, AT NO LESS THAN 10 WEEKS OF AGE, SEXUALLY ALTER ALL
2 FERRETS PRIOR TO THEIR SALE AND PROVIDE MEDICAL CERTIFICATION DATING THE
3 PROCEDURE; AND

4 (3) MAY NOT TRANSPORT ANY FERRET DESCRIBED IN ITEM (2) OF THIS
5 SUBSECTION FROM ITS COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITY WITHIN 7 DAYS OF
6 SEXUALLY ALTERING THE FERRET.

7 (B) A COMMERCIAL ENTITY THAT VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A
8 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100
9 FOR EACH VIOLATION.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
11 effect October 1, 2004.